

Members and Their Duties

BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Code BBAA Issued 10/02

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the authority and responsibilities of the board and its members.

Because all powers of the board of trustees lie in its action as a group, individual board members exercise their authority over district affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the board.

In other instances, an individual board member, including the chairman, will have power only when the board, by vote, has delegated authority to him/her. The board will not be bound in any way by any action or statement on the part of any individual board member not delegated by the board.

The board and its members will deal with administrative services through the superintendent and will not give orders to any subordinates of the superintendent either publicly or privately, but may make suggestions and recommendations.

The board will make its members, the district staff and the public aware through its actions and policies that only the board acting as a whole has authority to take official action.

The members of the board of trustees are officers of the state. Constitutional provisions that apply to officers apply to school board members.

Adopted 11/20/89; Revised 10/21/02

Legal references:

A. S. C. Constitution:

1. Article II, Sections 3 & 4 - Definition of qualified electors.

2. Article XVII, Sections 1 & 1A - Qualifications for office and prohibition against dual office holding.

B. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 7-5-120 - Qualifications for voter registration.

2. Title 8 - Deals with rights and responsibilities of public officers.

3. Section 59-15-50 - Oath of board members.

C. Attorney General's Opinion:

1. 1960-61, No. 1092, p. 164 - Any action taken by the board of trustees must be taken at a regularly called and assembled meeting with a quorum present.

Policy

BOARD MEMBER CONDUCT

Code BC Issued 10/02

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for board member conduct as individuals and while sitting as a board.

Public office is a trust created by the confidence in which the public places the integrity of its public officers. To preserve this confidence, it is the desire of the board to operate under the highest ethical standards.

It is the responsibility of each board member to do the following.

- Become familiar with district policies, rules and regulations, state and federal school laws, and regulations of the state department of education.
- Have a general knowledge of educational aims and objectives of the district.
- Work harmoniously with other board members without trying either to dominate the board or neglect one's share of the work.
- Vote and act in the board meetings impartially for the good of the district.

- Accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and give wholehearted support to the resulting policy.
- Represent the board and district to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support.
- Refer complaints to the proper school authorities and abstain from individual counsel and action.

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